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Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 17 June 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of the UNCTAD programme of the United Nations Medium-term Plan 1998-2001

4. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. Under rule 64, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, and in accordance with the cycle of rotation for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, the Chairman of the Working Party at its twenty-seventh session shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Africa). The Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, shall be a representative of one of the States members in list B.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Working Party is reproduced in section I above.

Item 3 - Review of the UNCTAD programme of the United Nations Medium-term Plan 1998-2001

3. The current United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997 was adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session and subsequently revised at its forty-seventh session and forty-ninth session. To conform with the programme planning and budget cycle, the new plan beyond 1997 needs to be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at its fifty-first session in 1996 in order to provide the framework for the preparation and approval in 1997 of the 1998-1999 programme budget.

4. In the current Medium-term Plan for the period 1992-1997, the substantive activities of UNCTAD are grouped into five programmes: Programme 13 Trade and Development (11 subprogrammes), Programme 14 Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development (6 subprogrammes), Programme 15 Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and special programmes (2 subprogrammes), Programme 17 Science and technology for development (3 subprogrammes), Programme 23 Transnational Corporations (3 subprogrammes).

5. In response to the guidelines provided by the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), the new format of the Plan was proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which is a significant departure from the current one and forms part of the overall approach of the Secretary-General for a greater sense of unity of purpose, clearer lines of responsibility and greater managerial accountability. The new format of the Plan consists of two major components: a perspective and a programme framework. The perspective, prepared by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, indicates broad priority areas for the work of the United Nations. The programme

framework reflects the congruence between the programmatic and organizational structures so as to enhance accountability by ensuring that responsibility is clearly identified for the delivery of the programme and for achieving the results the programme is meant to produce. The programme narrative for each of the programmes should be about one-page single-spaced, while subprogrammes within the Organization/Department should correspond to an organizational unit, normally at the level of the division, with the description of each subprogramme of about one page.

6. In the new programme structure proposed for the Medium-term Plan for the period 1998-2001, the substantive activities of UNCTAD have been grouped into five subprogrammes in line with the new organizational structure set in place in April 1996. All these five subprogrammes, namely, Globalization and development strategies (subprogramme 1), Investment, technology and enterprise development (subprogramme 2), International trade and commodities (subprogramme 3), Services for development and trade efficiency (subprogramme 4), and Least developed countries (subprogramme 5), together with four subprogrammes of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, form a single programme, i.e. Programme 11. Trade and development.

7. In accordance with Regulation 3.12 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBMED Rules/1), the draft UNCTAD programme of the Medium-Term Plan should be reviewed by the sectoral body (i.e. the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget in the case of UNCTAD) before it is considered by the CPC (at its thirty-sixth session 3-28 June 1996) and subsequently by the General Assembly (at its fifty-first session).

8. The draft UNCTAD programme of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1998-2001 is contained in TD/B/WP(XXVII)/CRP.1.

Item 4 - Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party

9. The UNCTAD secretariat will submit to the Working Party for its consideration a draft provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session.

Item 5 - Other business

Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

10. In view of the fact that the Working Party will hold its twenty-seventh session during the week immediately prior to the conclusion of the review of the Medium-term Plan by the CPC, it is suggested that the Chairman of the Working Party be authorized to report the outcome directly to the CPC in New York.